

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on pg. 1, line 4 as follows:

This application is a continuation application of application no. 09/717,227, which was filed on November 22, 2000, and which is ~~was~~ based upon and ~~claims~~ claimed the benefit of Japanese Patent Applications No. 11-333119 filed on November 24, 1999, No. 11-333124 filed on November 24, 1999, No. 2000-88579 filed on March 24, 2000, No. 2000-97911 filed on March 30, 2000, No. 2000-97912 filed on March 30, 2000 and No. 2000-305228 filed on October 4, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.